

## Press Release -

## **Transit Planning Board Making Progress Toward Regional Success**

On Monday, November 20, customers on MARTA Route 12 and Cobb Community Transit (CCT) Route 10, will enjoy an easier, more convenient ride between the two counties with the launch of a pilot program fostered by the Transit Planning Board (TPB).

While CCT has been able to bring customers to MARTA's Arts Center Station, current policies did not allow the system to pick anyone up within MARTA's service area. MARTA has been required to stop service at the county line, inconveniencing customers who needed to transfer to CCT to complete their trip.

"This is exactly the kind of progress the Transit Planning Board set out to make and a great example of how we can maximize our existing transit resources to the benefit of our customers," said TBP and Clayton County Commission Chairman Eldrin Bell. "This proves that good things will happen when we all work together and use common sense to reach common goals. TPB staff have heard from many delighted riders and the property management of the IBM complex in north west Atlanta has expressed support for the service."

The new service will start on Monday, November 20, 2006. Customers should check the provider's websites at www.cobbdot.org or www.itsmarta.com for schedule information. Customers pay at the point of boarding and transfers between the two systems are free.

The Transit Planning Board consists of 18 voting members including the Commission Chairs of Clayton, Cobb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Cherokee, Douglas, Fayette, Henry and Rockdale Counties, the CEO of DeKalb County, the Mayor of Atlanta, three gubernatorial appointees, the GRTA Board Chair, the GDOT Board Chair, the MARTA Board Chair and the MARTA General Manager. The Board's work focuses on improving transit service through regional cooperation. "The closed door policy has become an open door solution" said Chairman Bell at today's TPB Operations and Oversight Committee meeting.